

encouragement, or discouragement, we receive, at home and elsewhere. One of the little girls said her mother had told her not to touch! Perversely, I suspect such an instruction, dependent on source and frequency, might also have served as encouragement rather than discouragement to some of us!— PAUL WARING, Reader, Writtle College. Address for correspondence: Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6LS (e-mail: paul_waring@btinternet.com).

Psectra diptera (Burmeister) (Neur.: Hemerobiidae) in Gloucestershire

Two examples of *Psectra diptera* – both micropterous females - were found in the ancient limestone grassland of Swift's Hill (O.S. grid reference SO 80) in the Slad Valley of the Cotswold Hills, East Gloucestershire. The first was taken by sweep-netting along the south-facing slopes where there is an open but tall grassland sward dominated by tor grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, on 4 August 2003, and one was found in the same area again by suction sampling on 6 September 2003. The species is known to favour rank tussocky vegetation and is known from a wide variety of long-established semi-natural situations, both wet and dry (Plant, 1994, *Provisional atlas of the lacewings and allied insects of Britain and Ireland*). Although known from other calcareous grasslands – notably the Chalk of the Chilterns, North and South Downs, and Cambridgeshire, but also Jurassic Limestone in Northamptonshire (Kirby & Welch, 1990, *Neuro News* No 7: 4-10) - it has not previously been reported from the Cotswolds or any other downlands this far west.

Thanks to Colin Plant for confirming my determination.— KEITH N. A. ALEXANDER, 59 Sweetbrier Lane, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 3AQ.

The Burren – a brief summary of its butterflies in 2003

I can vividly recall my first visit to the Burren in March 1977 when, on a cold and wet morning, as a secondary school student, my classmates and I were loaded onto a bus and transported to north Co. Clare on one of those dreaded school tours. Little did I realise, at that time, the hold this unique area would take on me. My entomological interest developed with several other events that same year, namely my first sighting of a Green hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* L., a single Painted lady *Cynthia cardui* L. on privet blossom *Ligustrum vulgare* in my parents back garden and, most spectacular of all, the sight of a Deaths Head Hawk-moth *Acherontia Atropos* L., which flew through our kitchen window in late September.

Living in Co. Kerry has its advantages, an area of natural beauty in Killarney only half an hours drive away and, even more importantly, ease of access to the Burren, which entails a drive of several hours and a short ferry crossing of the Shannon. Since 1984, I had been fortunate enough to visit the area about thirty times and this number could be much higher except for the vicissitudes of the Irish weather. However, during 2003, I did manage to make five visits and in this short note, have attempted to briefly outline what was recorded where, when and in what abundance.